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### **Missouri's Relative Job Loss Highest in Nation Over past Year**

Missouri's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 55,000 over the past year, leaving the state with the highest relative jobs loss in the nation. Missouri lost just over 2 percent of its total employment between June of 2001 and June of 2002. Total employment in June of this year was 2,687,200.

Employment is one of four major indicators monitored by the Missouri Department of Economic Development to assess current economic conditions. The others are personal income, industrial vitality, and retail sales.

"We are quite disturbed to learn that on a percentage-basis Missouri had the largest employment decline in the nation over the past year," said Missouri Department of Economic Development Director Joseph L. Driskill. "Clearly this is a troubling trend and further evidence that despite some indications the U.S. economy is improving, Missouri is still experiencing major problems from this national recession. We continue to fear that Missouri will be at the end and not at the forefront of an eventual economic recovery."

Driskill pointed out that Missouri's decline in manufacturing jobs, which earlier this year was the third highest in the nation on a percentage-basis, has continued to level off. Unfortunately, job losses are now being felt in other employment sectors.

"After seeing major declines in manufacturing jobs for more than a year those losses have stabilized. There are now a dozen states that have lost relatively more manufacturing jobs than Missouri. However we are now seeing a ripple effect across other employment sectors," explained Driskill.

Of the 55,000 lost jobs in the year ending this June, 20,300 were manufacturing. In Missouri, state government's decrease of 5,500 jobs over the past year represents 10 percent of the total job loss, about the same as construction. Business services accounted for 9.1 percent of the state's job loss, the finance, real estate and insurance industries have represented 7.8 percent of the loss, while wholesale trade's share has been 6.6 percent.

In overall job loss, Washington, Colorado and Georgia lost slightly less than 2 percent of their jobs during the period, while Utah lost 1.7 percent and Massachusetts 1.5 percent.

Even though decreasing employment has been more prevalent, 17 states have had some employment increase over the past year, ranging from .03 percent in New Hampshire to 1.1 percent in South Dakota. Of Missouri's neighboring states, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and Oklahoma have had employment increases over the past year. Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois and Tennessee have had net job losses. The largest of these was Illinois where employment has dropped by 77,100 jobs, or 1.3 percent.